

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2005

Mr. Ralph Crosby  
Chairman and CEO  
EADS  
1616 North Ft. Meyer Drive  
Suite 1600  
Arlington VA, 22209

Dear Mr. Crosby,

I write today in support of the three New York State facilities applying for the opportunity to house the U.S. production site of European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company's aerial refueling aircraft, and to offer any assistance I can to better their chances of receiving this coveted award. I strongly believe that all three sites - Niagara Falls International Airport, the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, and Calverton Enterprise Park - would each be an excellent fit for your facility and offer unique advantages to ensure the success of your project.

There is no better place to do business than right now in New York State. All across the state, New York offers a unique blend of vast bustling metropolises, high-tech industrial infrastructure, and an efficient multi-modal transportation system. New Yorkers are the best educated, hardest working, and most devoted workers in the country, whose drive and enthusiasm brings quality to every product and success to every endeavor.

All three New York applicants, supported by the New York State Economic Development Corporation, offer top-notch aviation facilities and equipment, and all meet the some of the stated prerequisites, including access to an extra-long runway, railroad lines, and the availability of a deep-water port.

Niagara International Airport and Air Force Reserve Base's location on an international border and in the heart of the centers of commerce in the Northeast make it an ideal location for this facility. It has the runway capacity and available development space that few other places can boast. Moreover, Western New York has an educated and skilled workforce second to none that would be a huge asset to a facility such as this.

The former Plattsburgh Air Force Base was a showcase facility built by the USAF during the cold war. Its runway is large enough that it was an alternate landing site for the space shuttle. Plattsburgh has easy access to the Port of Montreal, which is a world class, year round, deep-water port, as well as the Port of Albany, which is also a year round port. Additionally, Plattsburgh is within one hour's drive of seven universities that offer engineering programs, including three in Montreal that offer aerospace engineering.

Calverton Enterprise Park offers two military length runways, a rail spur, and an office building that's currently available. Calverton is located close to Dowling College, which offers an aviation curriculum in Shirley. Long Island has a rich history of military contractors, offering a deep pool of skilled labor.

I very much hope you choose New York State for your new facility. This project will be great for EADS and great for New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer  
US Senator